STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DE 22-043

STATEWIDE LOW-INCOME ELECTRIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2022-2023 Program Administrative Budgets

Procedural Order Re: Briefing Schedule

During the hearing held on April 18, 2024, the Commission requested that the New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE) submit a brief addressing the following issues: (1) whether the \$7 million appropriated to the DOE by legislation passed in 2022, see 2022 N.H. Laws, ch. 346:4, must be deposited directly into the Electric Assistance Program (EAP) Fund and used solely for the payment of EAP benefits; or (2) whether these funds may be used for other purposes under New Hampshire law. The Commission also requested the DOE, in the form of a record request response within the DOE's brief, to the extent possible, to: (1) provide the final status of the \$10 million in emergency energy-cost funding provided for in 2022-2023 and referenced in the DOE EAP Audit Report; (2) state whether any other DOE EAP Audit Report issues remain outstanding; (3) specify which late payment/invoice issues referenced in the DOE EAP Audit Report, if any, have been ameliorated; and (4) provide an update on the financial status of the EAP funding account, with projections through the end of the next EAP year (September 30, 2025). The DOE agreed to file its brief by May 23, 2024. See Transcript of April 18, 2024 Hearing at 153-163, 182-193. On May 21, 2024, the DOE filed a request to extend the May 23 deadline to May 28, 2024. The DOE did not, however, indicate the positions of any of the other parties regarding its request.

Given the short amount of time remaining before May 23 deadline, the Commission waives New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules, Puc 203.07(e) and GRANTS the

DOE's request for an extension. The Commission extends the DOE's request to May 31, 2024, to accommodate the record-request information delineated above. The Commission now orders the following briefing schedule:

DOE's Initial Brief

May 31, 2024

Parties' Reply Briefs (Optional)

June 14, 2024

All briefs will be limited to 15 pages in length, double-spaced. *See* N.H. Admin. R., Puc 203.32(d) and Puc 203.04.

So ordered, this twenty-second day of May, 2024.

Daniel C. Goldner Chairman Pradip K. Chattopadhyay

Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 22-043

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